

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 135539
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

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S/S:A. OTTO
H - MS. SWIFT

-----110147Z 030956 /65

O 110113Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 135539

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, KS, US

SUBJECT: BROWN/HABIB APPEARANCES BEFORE HIRC AND SFRC

1. GENERAL BROWN AND UNDER SECRETARY HABIB APPEARED BEFORE HIRC IN BOTH OPEN AND EXECUTIVE SESSION AND BEFORE EXECUTIVE SESSION OF SFRC JUNE 10.

2. SESSIONS BEFORE HIRC WENT WELL, WITH NO SUBSTANTIAL CHALLENGES RAISED TO TROOP WITHDRAWAL PLANS OR TO NEED FOR COMPENSATORY MEASURES. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' QUESTIONS CENTERED ON ATTITUDES OF JAPANESE, SOVIETS AND CHINESE TO WITHDRAWAL PLANS, RATIONALE FOR WITHDRAWAL, AND ON NORTH-SOUTH MILITARY BALANCE. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION WHETHER JCS HAD OPPOSED WITHDRAWAL PLANS, GENERAL BROWN

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NOTED THAT JCS HAD ORIGINALLY FAVORED DIFFERENT WITHDRAWAL SCHEME THAN THAT FINALLY SELECTED BUT HAD NOT OPPOSED WITHDRAWAL PER SE. THERE WERE FEW OTHER REFERENCES TO POSSIBLE SPLITS WITHIN ADMINISTRATION OVER WITHDRAWAL DECISION OR TO SINGLAUB AFFAIR. ALTHOUGH REPRESENTATIVE FRASER REGISTERED OPPOSITION TO WITHDRAWAL, SAYING IT WOULD LEAD ONLY TO FURTHER REPRESSION BY ROKG, HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE

WAS VIRTUALLY IGNORED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS. THERE WAS NO DETAILED DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE COMPENSATORY MEASURES.

3. IN EXECUTIVE SESSION, COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE TOLD ESSENTIALLY WHAT ROKG HAD BEEN TOLD ABOUT OUR PROPOSED TROOP WITHDRAWAL SCHEDULE.

4. QUESTIONING IN EXECUTIVE SESSION OF SFRC OPENED WITH BRIEF REVIEW BY SENATOR CASE OF NORTH-SOUTH MILITARY BALANCE ASSESSMENT DRAWN UP BY COMMITTEE STAFF ON BASIS OF ORAL CIA BRIEF-NG. CASE SAID ASSESSMENT SO FAVORED NORTH THAT HE WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT WITHDRAWAL PLANS. HIS THEME WAS PICKED UP BY SENATOR HUMPHREY WHO SAID HE FAVORED WITHDRAWALS, BUT FELT THE 4-5 YEAR TIME-FRAME SHOULD BE EXTENDED AND THAT REAL EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO COMPENSATE FOR ROK DEFICIENCIES.

5. COMMITTEE DECIDED AT THIS POINT TO ADJOURN HEARINGS AND TO REQUEST CIA DIRECTOR TURNER TO GIVE IT A BRIEFING ON THE NORTH-SOUTH MILITARY SITUATION AT LATER DATE, FOLLOWING WHICH HABIB AND BROWN WOULD BE RECALLED FOR QUESTIONING. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE135539
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EHURWITZ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770208-0733
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770666/aaaacfnr.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8058e57e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2184133
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BROWN/HABIB APPEARANCES BEFORE HIRC AND SFRC
TAGS: MARR, KS, US
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8058e57e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009